



CITIZEN

No. 8 **JUNE** 1947

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Sir Malcolm Trustram Eve, M.C., K.C.

PRIDE OF A NATION
—THE NATIONAL TRUST

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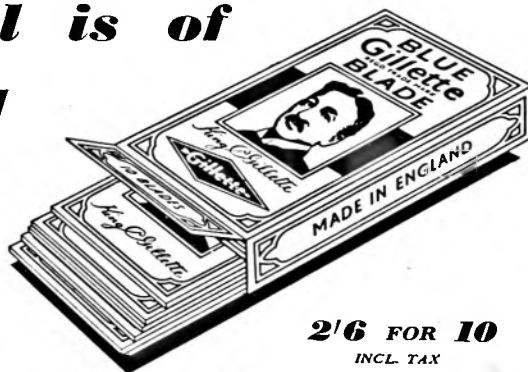
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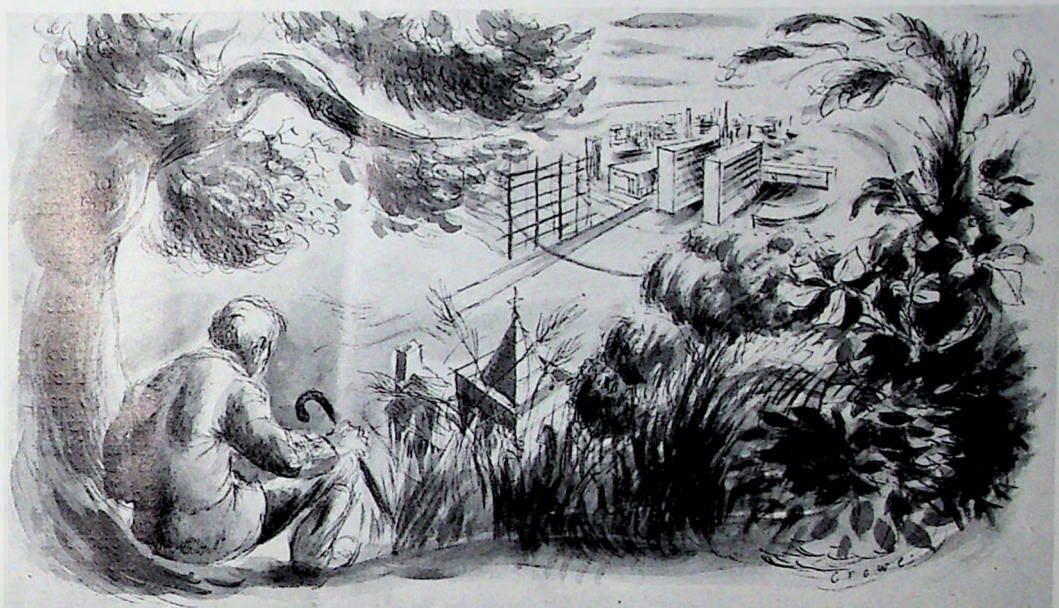
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VOL. I
No. 8

CITIZEN

JUNE
1947

A JOURNAL OF CIVIC AFFAIRS



The Boundary Commission

SIR MALCOLM TRUSTRAM EVE, M.C., K.C.

Chairman, Local Government Boundary Commission

IT may, I think, be justly claimed that the recently issued first annual report of the Local Government Boundary Commission has been given a favourable reception both by local authorities and by the Press. In particular I have noted a consensus of approval of the Commission's view that in a task of the nature and magnitude which it faces it will be wisdom to make haste slowly.

I do not see how, if we are to achieve the end of the governing principle laid down for us by Parliament that

"the object of all alterations in status of local government authorities and of all alterations in the boundaries of local government areas is to ensure individually and collectively effective and convenient units of local government administration,"

we can proceed otherwise. I have had suggested to me more than once by journalists who have called upon me—I have detected the same fear in some public utterances—that by a "snap" decision of the Commission some beautiful stretch of country-side, or some well-ordered little community, will find itself suddenly hauled, willy-nilly, within the borders of a neighbouring town—in fact, that no part of rural England and Wales will in future be safe from a possibly disfiguring urban encroachment. It is a groundless fear. There will be—indeed, can be—no "snap" decisions. That point the Commission's first report, as well as the preliminary expression of its intentions in certain specific cases, has already made abundantly clear.

Safeguards fully adequate against hurried action are laid down in the regulations under which the Commission works. It is right that any and every area whose future status is involved in a proposal being considered—whether initiated by the Commission or by some neighbouring authority or authorities—should be given the fullest opportunity of making its views known with full candour and without interference. The method of consultation devised by the Commission secures this result, and I am giving away no secret when I say that there has been no lack of candour in the views advanced at some of the private consultations I have attended. Beyond all this investigation and consultation on our part there remains the recourse to a public inquiry in those cases where objection is too strong to be smoothed out, and, in the case of counties and county boroughs, any final Order must undergo the scrutiny of Parliament. So much for the question of speed. I hope it will be of reassurance to those who may fear we shall go too quickly, and of information to those others who may, perhaps, think we go too slowly.

What exactly is our task?

It is expressed in the opening words of the Act under which we work in a single sentence—a somewhat unusual Parliamentary feat: "There shall be established a Local Government Boundary Commission which shall be charged with the duty of reviewing the circumstances of the areas into which England and Wales (exclusive of the administrative county of London) are divided for the purposes of local government, and exercising, where it appears to the Commission expedient so to do, the powers of altering those areas conferred by the following provisions of this Act."

A pretty comprehensive mission, and I must confess that sometimes as I look at the map of England and Wales I am conscious of a slight degree of trepidation at the reflection "how wide is our parish!" There are 1,500 local government areas (61 counties, 83 county boroughs, and 1,356 county districts, i.e. non-county boroughs, urban districts and rural districts). Their standards of efficiency vary from the very good down to the definitely bad—a badness, I hasten to say, which is almost invariably due to the fact that the financial and other capacities of the particular area simply do not fit it to stand up against modern conditions and requirements.

The aim we are set is the ensuring of "individually and collectively effective and convenient units of local government administration." Anyone who is conversant with public local life in this country will know that this must mean changes—many changes, in fact. Fortunately for the Commission its regula-

tions provide a yard-stick of factors against which proposals for such changes must be measured. It may be worth while to set them out in alphabetical order:

- (a) Community of interest.
- (b) Development, or anticipated development.
- (c) Economic and industrial characteristics.
- (d) Financial resources measured in relation to financial need, including in particular, but not exclusively, the average rateable value per head of population, rates raised per head of population and the estimated product of a given rate poundage.
- (e) Physical features including in particular, but not exclusively, suitable boundaries, means of communication and accessibility to administrative centres and centres of business and social life.
- (f) Population—size, distribution and characteristics.

(g) Record of administration by the local authorities concerned.

(h) Size and shape of the areas.

(i) Wishes of the inhabitants.

Clearly the weight to be given to these several factors must vary from case to case, but I can give an assurance that each of them is viewed in the light of the governing principle to which I have already referred.

I do not propose to deal in detail with the report of the Commission (it is published by H.M. Stationery Office at 4d., and is, if I may say so, worthy of study), or with the

preliminary decisions which the Commission has so far issued. Briefly stated, the position is that of a two-way traffic system. Enterprising and ambitious cities and townships seek to enlarge and make their own proposals to the Commission for doing so. Many other bodies, neither enterprising nor ambitious, would prefer to remain as they are, and the Commission seeks the best way to ensure that their lot may be improved. The number of considerations to which weight has to be given, from whichever end the investigation starts, is remarkable in its variety.

One assumes that the majority of the readers of "CITIZEN" are people who have some familiarity with the fascinating story of the growth of our local government system. It would be strange, too, if they were without some theories of their own as to how it might be vastly improved. It will be observed that I have carefully refrained from voicing a view on such theories. I will content myself with the expression of one personal opinion: How much merrier merrie England might have been if the Industrial Revolution had been accompanied by a strictly administered Town and Country Planning Act!



Chairman of the Boundary Commission, Sir Malcolm Ede is also a prominent winter sports enthusiast.

PLYMOUTH'S PLANNERS MUST THINK AGAIN

Limits Placed on Proposed Boundaries

FOLLOWING closely upon their annual report, the Local Government Boundary Commission have published their first proposals for changes in the status and boundaries of a limited number of boroughs and counties. Although publicity has been given nationally to the Report, little attention has been paid to the significance of these individual proposals, and in particular to the decision on Plymouth, the only case in which the Commission have come to a complete conclusion. In Devonshire itself the Commission's reduction, from 100,000 acres to 9,000, of the City's original claim for extended boundaries has been the occasion of widespread discussion and comment.

While it would be both premature and impracticable to attempt to deduce from any of these interim decisions a general principle that the Commission may apply throughout the country, a study of the reasons for Plymouth's original demands and for their rejection clearly illustrates the weight given by the Commission to those factors set out by its Chairman, Sir Malcolm Eve.

THE PLAN FOR PLYMOUTH

In common with most cities of similar size, Plymouth, at the end of the war, found itself faced with a double problem of devastation and an inheritance of "blighted" property. The centre of the City and the dock areas around Devonport were completely obliterated in the 1941 blitz, and one-third of the city's houses are 80-100 years old. With overcrowding to the extent of 253.4 and 202 persons per acre in two wards, the reconstruction of Plymouth necessitated the preparation of a complete Plan for the whole city. This Plan, prepared by Mr. Paton Watson, the City Engineer, and Sir Patrick Abercrombie, was published in 1943. It was estimated that of the 6,833 families who had lost their homes by enemy action, only 1,714 could be re-settled on their former sites. In addition, the return of men from the forces would require 900 houses, and the proposed extension of H.M. Dockyard in Devonport would displace a further 3,252 families. Finally, there was a pre-war shortage of 1,000 houses, and 6,227 "blighted" houses to be rebuilt, of which only 962 could be replaced in their present position. In all, a housing programme of over 19,000 houses was anticipated.

In the siting of these new houses attention was rightly given to the provision of Neighbourhood Units, each with its own Community Centre; the grouping of many scattered industries; and the pre-

servation of a correct balance between the built-up areas, open spaces and agricultural land. The density of population was estimated accordingly to permit 100 persons per acre near the City centre, 50 persons in the middle ring and 25 in the outer. On this basis it became necessary to find additional sites for some 40,000 persons outside the city boundaries, assuming the population to be the same as in 1939.

REQUEST FOR 100,000 ACRES

In the light of this anticipated overspill Plymouth Council made their proposals to the Boundary Commission. They intended to extend their boundaries to incorporate four dormitory neighbourhoods, two in the east, Plympton (population 5,400) and Plymstock (8,250), and two in the west, Saltash (6,500) and Torpoint (3,700). It was recommended that these townships should be developed to absorb the majority of the overspill population. Recognising that if the county districts were deprived of their larger centres their financial stability and efficiency would be threatened, the Corporation recommended that they should take over and administer the whole of these areas, taking care that good agricultural land should not in any way be wasted. Thus it was that their wish to extend the population of the four small towns led to a request for the large area of 100,000 acres, which also included rural districts to the north of the city.

These proposals affected the future of the county districts concerned and the County Councils of Devonshire and Cornwall.

POPULATION DENSITY

At the informal inquiry held by the Boundary Commission, where all the various authorities affected by Plymouth's scheme were present, Cornwall County Council, her county districts, and Tavistock Rural District Council declared that there was no case for Plymouth's extension within their areas. The main issue centred around the proper density of development and the proper use of sites within the city's boundaries, and it was claimed that the overspill population need only be 18,000 and not 40,000. The Commission were asked to seek the advice of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, who gave their opinion in favour of Cornwall County Council. Taking this opinion into consideration, the Boundary Commission made their interim decision that Plymouth should be extended by adding to it the parishes of Bickleigh and Tamerton Foliot in the

rural district of Plympton St. Mary, an area of 9,000 acres. They believe that this land, which will double the present size of the city, will be ample to enable the Council to plan on modern lines and with plenty of space for a population of 200,000. The Devon County Council and the rural district concerned have agreed to this addition.

The Commission gave further reasons for rejecting Plymouth's claim for the addition of the towns of Saltash and Torpoint. They say that the barrier of the River Tamar, which lies between Plymouth and the towns, would cause problems of administration and communication which would not justify their inclusion in the city.

From this review of the events leading up to and determining the decision, it can be seen that the Commission, in their investigations and hearings,

have held a fine balance between the many conflicting issues. A compromise has been arrived at by which the *status quo* has been largely preserved. It would appear that the unquestioned efficiency of the county districts adjacent to Plymouth played a large part in determining this outcome, and the Commission can be said to have acted with Solomon-like wisdom. The only question that has yet to be answered is whether the efficacy of the Plymouth Plan will be weakened by the necessity to introduce a greater density of population. The Boundaries Committee of the Council are reviewing the situation in the light of the Commission's report and it remains to be seen whether they decide to object at a later date, when the Commission's proposals are embodied in statutory form. Meanwhile the planners of Plymouth must think again.

THE NALGO CONFERENCE

T.U.C. Affiliation Defeated

THE National Association of Local Government Officers strongly rejected immediate affiliation with the T.U.C. at the Annual four-day Conference at Southport last week. The Executive Council, was, however, authorised to explore the possibility of such a move for consideration next year.

Speakers in favour of immediate affiliation said that unless NALGO joined the main stream of industrial organisation local government officers would be subject to the suspicion and hostility of the working classes. NALGO should work with fellow Trade Unionists on a national level. It was pointed out that affiliation did not imply a political levy, and that of 194 organisations in the Trade Union Movement, only 64 were affiliated to the Labour Party.

In opposition to immediate affiliation, speakers referred to distasteful obligations and said that NALGO was capable of standing on its own feet without the assistance of the T.U.C. The National Executive Council appealed for the support of Conference so that the desirability of affiliation could be fully investigated.

CITIZENSHIP

A motion deploring the widespread ignorance of local government matters among the general population was carried with one dissentient. The inclusion of "Civics" in the curricula of school children was recommended as a means of fostering a greater sense of citizenship.

Mr. A. S. ROBERTS, of Holborn, said that the subject was one of the most important motions on the agenda paper. He urged the Association to adopt a more vigorous and progressive policy in this field of education. Our civilisation was in danger as a

result of the apathy of the people in the world at large, and the local government service could make its contribution in the fight against apathy by spreading enlightenment among the present and future generations of this country. Mr. Roberts said that NALGO should do all that was possible to see that good citizenship was taught in our schools without delay.

Mr. E. H. MASON, chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the National Executive Council, said that every possible support would be given to the policy of education in citizenship.

An amendment proposing the production of a film on local government by the Ministry of Education was defeated.

WAGES

Conference defeated by an overwhelming majority a resolution advocating a national wages policy. The motion, which referred to the ill-effect of "an unregulated scramble for all round wage increases" was described by opposing delegates as dangerous. Local improvements in the established charter of salaries and conditions were urged, and delegates expressed dissatisfaction with rates of pay of local government officers in relation to those of banks and insurance companies.

A feature of the Conference was the *Citizen* stand at the Conference Exhibition. Entitled "Putting the Citizen in the Picture of Civic Affairs," the exhibit showed examples of pictorial material that would assist the ratepayer to understand and take an interest in his local government.

Citizen Photos were responsible for all Conference photography.

In Parliament

Being extracts from recent Parliamentary proceedings of particular interest to readers of this journal.

RAM ROASTING FAIR

19th May.—Brigadier Rayner (Con.) asked the Minister of Food if he will grant facilities for a ram to be roasted at Kings Teignton Ram Roasting Fair in accordance with custom on Whit Tuesday, 27th May.

Mr. Strachey: With regret, no, Sir.

Brigadier Rayner: Is the Minister aware that this old custom originated in the distant past as a thank-offering to the springs which flowed after a long drought? Is he aware that these springs still feed two mills which produce valuable flour for his Department, and that it is very unlucky, in peacetime, to interfere with old customs and traditions which have been prevalent for so long? Will he reconsider his decision?

Mr. Strachey: No, Sir, although I should very much like to supply the ram. The Fair has done without one for seven years, and it can do without one for a little longer.

LOCAL LOANS

20th May.—Mr. Ernest Davies (Lab.) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any relief to borrowers from the Local Loans Fund is in prospect as a consequence of the redemption of 3 per cent. Local Loans Stock.

Mr. Dalton: Yes, Sir. The redemption of Local Loans Stock has created a disposable surplus of £15 million in the Local Loans Fund. This surplus will be used to reduce all rates of interest on outstanding balances from the fund, in excess of 4½ per cent. to this figure. This does not affect the so-called "Addison" loans to local authorities, where relief is already given by the Exchequer. This reduction will take effect from 1st June, 1947. Two-thirds of all the local authorities concerned, numbering nearly 2,000, will benefit from these reductions of interest rates. Most of these are small authorities, with very limited financial resources. This relief will, therefore, be both widespread and substantial. It is a further practical example of the benefit to the nation of cheaper money.

CHILD CARE

6th June.—Mr. Battley (Lab.) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the total number of children deprived of normal home lives in England and Wales on 31st March, 1947, or the latest available date; the number of children deprived for the following reasons: death of parents; foundlings; desertion; legitimate and illegitimate; homelessness of parents; immorality of parents; cruelty of parents; inadequate home conditions; and the number of children in which the rights and powers of parents are vested in local authorities.

Mr. Ede: The number of children in England and Wales deprived of a normal home life, exclusive of delinquent and physically or mentally handicapped children, is estimated to have been about 94,000 on 1st May, 1946. This figure includes children who may have been only temporarily separated from their families. As regards the last part of the question, approximately 8,000 children are committed to the care of local authorities under the Children and Young Persons Act. I regret that it is not possible to furnish the remainder of the information requested by my hon. Friend.

PAYMENT OF COUNCILLORS

22nd May.—Mr. G. Brown (Lab.) asked the Minister of Health when the report of the Committee on Expenses of Members of Local Authorities, presided over by Lord Lindsay of Birker, will be published; and what action is to be taken on the recommendations.

Mr. Bevan: The report has been published and copies are available in the Vote Office to-day. The Government accept the recommendation of the majority of the committee that local authorities should make provision for payments to members, in suitable cases and subject to proper safeguards, in respect of travelling expenses, loss of remunerative time and, where appropriate, subsistence. They are looking into the detailed provisions required, and will take steps to obtain the necessary legislation as soon as Parliamentary time permits.

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CITIZEN

EDITOR:

J. Y. Morfey

CENtral 2236-7



JOURNAL OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

11, BOLT COURT,
FLEET STREET,
LONDON, E.C. 4

Nalگو at Southport

THERE is a class of person which, having the responsibility and the associated privileges of serving, and being paid for by, the people, is not popularly regarded in the same light as the ordinary worker. This sort of person is expected, rightly or wrongly, to possess rather more than the average quota of disinterested reasoning power. As an administrator of the people's welfare it is sometimes thought that he should be capable of objective consideration of the community's long term benefit, as well as being able to line satisfactorily his own pocket.

Local government officers form a very large proportion of this class of person, and the proceedings at Southport are especially interesting in the light that they throw on a popular misconception. The local government officer, it would seem, is often no more or less than his lesser self-seeking brethren, who indulge in an unregulated scramble for all round wage increases.

It was a regrettable feature of NALGO's annual conference that delegates displayed no inclination to display more than sectional interest and that that interest almost entirely lacked the unity of an objective and forward-looking policy.

Possibly the national wages policy motion was defeated because conference, bearing in mind the benefit of country, felt that no good would come of it; it is also possible NALGO felt that, however effective an answer a wages policy would be to monetary inflation, they themselves were likely to get the wrong end of the stick at the hands of labour. It is to be wondered how many delegates really object in principle to T.U.C. affiliation and joining the main stream of industrial organization, and how many were concerned with the immediate and personal disadvantages of such a move.

Claims for local improvements in rates of pay were more successfully supported by reference to conditions obtaining in banks and insurance houses than by justification of the importance of the local government officer's contribution to the community.

It cannot be expected that any organised group of workers will accept idealism for its own sake; even the public servant must in some measure consider his own purse this year and not someone else's in ten year's time. But sectional opportunism alone is not enough. The short sighted self-interest that appeared to move NALGO at this year's conference may pay this year, but it will pay no dividends later, either to the Association or, more important, to the public as a whole.

SUMMER IN DARKNESS FOR THE BLIND

But Social Service brings nearer a Normal Life

THE blind of this country are no longer a people apart—the advances made by State and voluntary welfare have enabled them to carry on as useful citizens.

The Blind Persons Act of 1920 entrusted the general care of the blind to the local authorities, making it their duty to look after the sightless, together with the help of approved voluntary agencies, from childhood to old age. And now, as soon as Parliamentary pressure lessens, further legislation is expected to clarify the powers of local authorities to form assistance and welfare schemes.

To-day, despite the loss of their foremost faculty, over 9,000 of the country's 75,758 certifiably blind population perform some useful task, some every-day job, and earn a living wage. Those who are unable to do so are either too young, too old, or have some other disability in addition to blindness.

From the time of Queen Elizabeth the blind were specially included among the poor as citizens deserving help. In 1791 the first school for blind children was opened; from that first institution, the modern training colleges and craft work-shops have developed.

Before the Blind Persons Act was introduced, although there were innumerable voluntary organizations, not every blind person was known and cared for. Since 1920, however, local authorities have been obliged to make a scheme operated by themselves, or by voluntary bodies on their behalf, which contained four main provisions. First, a register of all blind persons; secondly, education for all blind children, and training facilities to all adolescents and adults who could learn a trade; thirdly, a system of home visitors so that blind persons confined to their homes should be able to express their needs and receive medical and welfare care; fourthly, financial subsidies so that a blind person's income level was compatible with the cost of living.

Present day grants by the Ministry of Health, for these services have increased to over £140,000,

double the 1921 figure. When Borough and County Borough Councils were made responsible for the blind in 1920, local voluntary societies grouped themselves together on a county basis. As welfare schemes became more ambitious, however, national bodies were also formed to undertake work which could not be done locally.

Of these, St. Dunstan's, probably the most famous, was founded in 1915, and its work for blinded Servicemen has met with national gratitude. The

National Library maintains a central distributing depot so that every kind of book is available to blind people in Britain; each year it circulates over 300,000 books. The College of Teachers promotes the education of the blind by encouraging examinations and granting diplomas; to-day, most local authorities insist that their home teachers, or visitors, should have passed the standards required by the College. The Association of Work-shops complements the College of Teachers by uniting those responsible



In the library at Worcester College for the Blind, students settle down to a quiet game with the aid of a specially-designed chess-set.

for technical training.

The policy of the National Institute has been to fill any gaps in the system of blind welfare, and apart from the production of books in Braille and Moon type, and Talking Books (slow-playing gramophone records) it undertakes a school of massage, a home-teaching branch and welfare for young and old. The care and specialized treatment given at the National Institute's three Sunshine Homes has made it possible to equip even children born blind so that they can find a niche in everyday life as they grow up.

At these Sunshine Homes the children are taught in a normal fashion, except that their main source of information is derived from a stimulated sense of touch. Their imaginative powers are strongly developed; for instance, a cinder-path is called "toasty" because it crunches, and grocers' and butchers' shops are distinguished by the smell of their contents.

Thanks to increased maternity care, there are now only a few hundred blind children below the age of five. At the age of five the children come under the compulsory education system, from which they graduate to any of the numerous centres and colleges at the age of 16.

It was the discovery of an unknown Frenchman, Louis Braille, in 1834 that gave the blind a real chance to reach the same state of learning as sighted people. He invented a method of embossing pages with raised dots so that a sensitive finger could pick them out and translate them into words. But it was not until 50 years later that Braille's method was generally accepted in England. Since then, Dr. Moon has also invented a system of embossed type, though it is not so adaptable or condensed as Braille. The Talking Books, a series of gramophone records of a complete book read aloud, does not replace Braille but acts as a relaxation for the blind reader. The National Institute has a library of some hundreds of Talking Books and the scheme has benefited by generous grants from Viscount Nuffield.

Another means of supplying "vision" is the Guide Dog System. Alsatians are specially trained at a school near Liverpool, and when provided with a harness are capable of escorting their owners through traffic. Great care is taken, however, to entrust these dogs only to those who are able to give them proper care.

As a result of the facilities given to the blind for training in various work, many today have been able to make themselves completely self-supporting and independent. Over 2,000 work in their own homes, and their products are sold for them by marketing institutions; over 3,500 are employed in workshops either with blind or sighted colleagues. At present, in commerce, there are some hundred telephone girls and shorthand typists employed in business houses. The typists are able to take down at usual dictation speed by the use of Braille shorthand machines—these imprint raised dots of shorthand Braille on to a continuous tape which they then transcribe and type in the usual way. The best known occupation for blind people is piano tuning; loss of one sense sharpens the others, which explains the unique aptitude of the blind for this work, in which just under a thousand are registered.

Vocational training, State and Local Government aid, and local voluntary work, has made Britain a country in which her blind have a place in the community.



Mr. William Sharp, the blind host of the National Institute of the Blind, acts as guide and friend to two young visitors. He was the unknown blind man who made the Christmas radio appeal in 1934.



Trained in physiotherapy, a blind masseur administers electrical treatment to a patient at the Eichholz Clinic.

VOTES FOR THE BLIND

Because at all elections the voter must vote both secretly and personally, special provisions have been made for the blind.

The Blind Voters Act of 1933 enabled any blind voter to bring a friend or relative to the poll to assist him in recording his vote. This Act has been repealed and incorporated in the Local Government Act of 1933.

DANCING ON THE GREENSWARD

A Festival of Folk Dances

Colour and gaiety were brought to Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, in a Festival arranged by the town's Association of Citizens. A Citizen representative records his impressions of this revival of a long-forgotten custom.

THE ghosts in the churchyard were smiling again. The village of Bexcei, now the modern Bexhill, had returned to its country dances. Through the clear air rang the strains of the music of Olde England and the tapping feet of the dancers as they stepped into "The Hole in the Wall" dance.

The occasion was the first Folk Dancing Festival to be held on the South Coast by the English Folk Dancing Society. It was perhaps fitting that the town which knew Cecil Sharp, founder of the Society, very many years ago as a frequent visitor, should now have the privilege of holding this display.

The dances were held in the Egerton Park Pavilion, on the lawns of Egerton Park, and in the streets along the front. Carried away by the lively music, townspeople and Whiteside visitors alike joined in the country dances with gusto to tunes whose very names recalled the past—the "Double Lead Through," the "Morpeth Rant," the "Gay Gordons" and the "Steamboat." The old square dances were not forgotten either, and couples stepped out readily in the "Belfast Duck," the "Cumberland" and "American" squares.

The leader of the Festival was Mr. Douglas Kennedy, Director of the Society, ably assisted by Mrs. Kennedy, Miss Lightfoot, Miss West, and Miss Gadd, who is the Director of the American Folk Dance and Song Society.

The highlight of the occasion was undoubtedly the displays of Morris and Sword dancing by 100 specialists. Their entry on to the greensward caused the audience to burst into wild applause. Down the path they came in their gaily embroidered costumes, dancing their way in pairs on to the glorious green of the turf with the sun shining brilliantly in a blue sky. They formed a picture that will long be remembered as they performed the intricate evolutions of the "Headington Reel," the "Brackley Jackie," the "Alderbury Lads," the

"Brighton Camp," the "Fieldtown Leap Frog," and the "Bledington Trunkles."* The rapid tempo of the bells fixed to the calves of each dancer, the perfect movement of the kerchiefs, the kaleidoscope of the tunics and pantaloons with the background music of the fiddle, drums, accordion, clarinet, flute, oboe and guitar in lively time made the pulse tingle. No matter the age of the listener, from 7 years to 70, the feet began to tap out the time and join in the dancing.

Then followed Folk Dancing in all its variety with special displays of Sword Dancing, demonstrating the traditional Yorkshire Flamborough and North Skelton Dances. The particular fascination of these was in the weaving pattern formed as each dancer held not only his own "sword" but the tip of the "sword" of his neighbour, moving over and under, through and round, in and out, until a completed wheel of interlocked "swords" was finally held aloft by the circle of dancers.

To describe the Festival as a success would be an under-statement. Folk Dancing made a triumphant return to the South Coast at Bexhill, and it will not be lightly ousted. Already arrangements are in hand, at public request, for the holding of another Festival in 1948, and this time it is confidently expected that Bexhill will provide its own contingent of dancers.

* "Trunkles"—a Morris Dance whose name is thought to be derived from the 16th century garment, trunkhose. The origins of the Morris itself lie shrouded in the mist of time. In the 16th century it had a strong connection with the Church, but was probably adopted with many other Pagan customs from the Festival of Spring.

The Sword Dance is closely related to the mediaeval Mummer's Play, depicting the death of the Old Year, and the birth of the New Year and Spring. The "swords" are derived from trade instruments where the dances originated.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPLAINED

by W. ERIC JACKSON, LL.B., Barrister-at-Law

Local Government Finance

THE success of local government does not depend on the making of financial profit. Certain "trading" activities of a local authority, such as a municipal concert hall, a market, or a transport undertaking, may be run so as to show a balance of income over expenditure. That balance, however, can be used only in two ways—either in reducing the charges, or by spending it on other public purposes. There are no shareholders, no dividends.

Many of the local services cannot be run so as to show a trading balance. Services like primary and secondary education, domestic refuse collection, road maintenance and sewage disposal earn no income. The recipient of the service is asked to pay no fees.

For some other services there may be an income. There may be, for instance, charges for recreational facilities, rents from council houses, fees for licences, and contributions by patients in municipal hospitals, or by the families of poor persons receiving public assistance. This income, however, never meets the whole cost of the service provided. It is never intended to; for the service is given to meet a public need, irrespective of whether those who make use of it can afford to pay for it. Something has to be found from public funds. Public funds mean, in the last resort, the citizen. He is the ultimate paymaster.

His contribution towards local services is made both by way of local rates and by means of national taxes. In other words, the cost of local government operations (other than the so-called "trading services") is subsidized partly by local rates and partly by monetary assistance from the central government. Rates and government grants form the basis of local government finance. Money for large projects is often raised by loans repayable with interest over long periods.

The rating system is one of the main features of our local government. Every house, building, or piece of land (other than agricultural) in the area of a local authority is assessed at an "annual value." This is supposed to be (more or less) the yearly rental value. On the basis of these annual values the local taxes known as rates are levied. Each occupier has to pay so much in the pound on the assessment of his property. The amount in the pound (the actual rate) is fixed every half-year by each local authority. The valuation and assessment of property and the actual collection of the rate are performed by the borough and district councils. County and parish councils get their rate income by asking the other authorities to collect it for them.

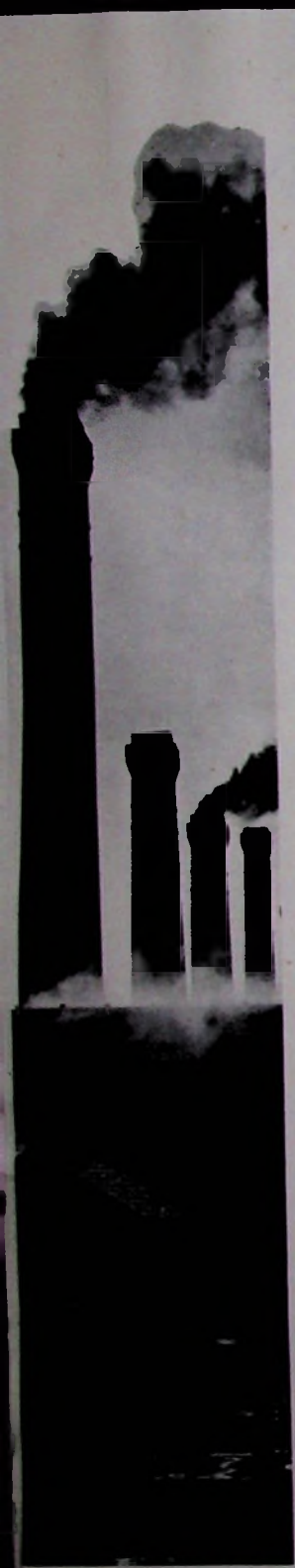
The ratepayer thus gets one demand for the rates of all the local government authorities in his area. The amount of the rates varies, of course, with the expenditure of the authorities.

"No taxation without representation" is an ancient rule of government, to which our rating system gives expression. Those who pay the rates are the local inhabitants, who are (for the most part) the same people as have a vote at local government elections. Thus the ancient rule is obeyed. Those who are represented on a council are those who pay the rates it makes.

Rating as a system is criticized. One criticism is that the amount paid in rates by some occupiers has no relation to the use made by them of the local services. This criticism has to some extent been met by relieving agricultural property entirely from rates, and by reducing the assessment of industrial properties to one-fourth of the normal. Farmers and industrialists have to occupy valuable property, and rates were a heavy burden, yet those occupiers make no more use of the local public services than any other type of occupier. Some relief was justified.

Another criticism is that poor areas, where property values and the consequent rate income are low, are often the areas where social services are most needed and expenditure on them must be high. When, at the same time, the central government expects local services, such as education and police, to be of a certain standard of adequacy and efficiency, it would be an undue burden for some authorities to finance their services out of rates. To meet these difficulties, grants are made to local authorities from national taxation. In some cases the grant is on a percentage basis; it may be 50 or 60 per cent. of the local authority's expenditure on particular projects, such as roads, bridges or schools. For housing operations the grant takes the form of a subsidy on each house. In addition, for general purposes, the central government makes to local government a general exchequer grant which is apportioned among local authorities in the country according to a formula which takes into account, among other factors, population, rateable value, unemployment, and the mileage of public roads.

An entirely satisfactory method of financing local government has not yet been found. The scene is changing rapidly. Hospitals and poor relief services are to be transferred to the central government. Passenger transport and electricity supply, which were, in some areas, local trading services, are to be nationalized. The relationship between rates and taxes will, before long, undergo a great change.



BANE OF A CITY

Industrial Smoke—A Nuisance and Waste

SMOKE reduction and fuel-economy go hand-in-hand, for the basis of both is complete combustion—that is, getting the greatest possible heat out of the fuel used. A recent report issued by the Fuel Research Board states that with a two per cent. loss in smoke there is a ten per cent. loss of heat in the form of invisible gases—lost either because the fuel-burning installations are themselves unsatisfactory, the firing is faulty, or the wrong fuel for the type of installation is being used. Three million tons of soot, say the Report of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry, are discharged into the air each year in this way—they equal in weight nearly four days' output from all the collieries of Great Britain.

The Government has campaigned widely and has taken active measures to conserve supplies of fuel. Will the Government take up smoke prevention with equal energy? In the past, public-spirited bodies, together with enlightened local authorities and industrialists, have done what they could.

The war speeded up research in smoke prevention, and the Fuel Research Station developed means to prevent black smoke from the boilers of coal-fired ships. Declared a great success, the method is said to be equally applicable to land boilers. Moreover, new factories installed or used by the Government, including all Ordnance factories, were equipped with boilers which were so smokeless that from a distance of a few hundred yards it was difficult to see whether the chimneys were discharging smoke or not. These methods should be made generally available, and the Government should publicize and encourage their use.

Local authorities have been, and still are, handicapped in their attempts to reduce industrial smoke in their areas by inadequate legislation, ambiguously phrased, and by lack of sufficient Government support. There has been no national effort to combat the evil at its source—that is, where the firing actually takes place.

Present legislation gives no power to prevent, but only to attempt to cure, and once a bad appliance has been installed, little can be done.

Things are moving, however. New legislation is the first essential, and the National

Smoke Abatement Society, at its Annual Conference last year, discussed proposals for new legislation to control industrial smoke.

In brief, they are designed to extend present powers of local authorities through the framing of bye-laws to regulate the construction, arrangements, and approval of new, altered and additional fuel-burning installations; the maintenance and operation of such installations, and the registration of boilers, furnaces, and boiler and furnace firemen. As new factories are built with up-to-date installations and the old appliances replaced, there could thus be progressive elimination of all industrial smoke.

Industrialists may be expected to support such legislation, for it would not only minister to the public good, but would lead to greater efficiency and economy. Improved plant would become more easily obtainable, because designers would be encouraged to give particular attention to full combustion and the avoidance of atmospheric pollution.

A number of local authorities in this country already carry out "prior approval" of fuel-burning plant through their powers under the Town and Country Planning Acts, or, indirectly, through building bye-laws, or through the terms of lease of council land. But Parliament alone can now carry the campaign against industrial smoke to its final conclusion.

The responsibility rests with the Government not only to frame legislation, but to launch a nation-wide publicity campaign which shall enlist the co-operation of every industrialist, every local authority, and every private person. Demonstration factories or boilers, exhibitions, documentary films, lectures, posters, B.B.C. talks, and pamphlets are all needed. By this means perhaps ten years—at the most, 20—would bring us cleaner towns, healthier people, less harassed housewives, more fruitful agriculture, and would see the essential beauty of our towns restored. The Government must declare its policy.

Then let those who look to the future see industrial towns no longer dirty and overcast. Place before the public some real hope of clearing the smoke and soot from the atmosphere, give them the powers to work towards this end, and who will not gladly co-operate?

PRIDE OF A NATION

The Beauty of the Past is Preserved
by the National Trust

OVER the gateway to many a famous castle and the entrance to many a beauty spot there hangs the green and silver sign of the oak leaves and acorn. The mark of the National Trust, it means that here stands yet another piece of England preserved for posterity, as well as for the more immediate pleasures of present-day sightseers.

Though every year thousands of people visit the parklands and manors and other properties protected under the green and silver sign, few probably ever pause to consider just what that unostentatious emblem stands for. What is the National Trust, for instance—is it a Government-controlled or private body? And how did it come into being . . .



It is just over 50 years since the National Trust was founded. The people responsible were three philanthropists of their time—Miss Octavia Hill, well known for her work in connection with housing reforms; Sir Robert Hunter, a solicitor who had done valuable work with the Commons Preservation Society; and Canon Rawnsley, Vicar of Wray in Westmorland, who, a few years before, had vigorously opposed a new railway line which it was planned to build from Buttermere to Braithwaite.

The story of the Trust begins at the close of the nineteenth century—a century of social change that had already begun to witness the gradual weakening of the land-owning classes and the falling into disrepair and disuse of many of their estates.

Hand in hand with these changes, the rise of a wealthy bourgeoisie had brought with it a plague of speculative building. Rapidly the English countryside was being defaced by monstrous Victorian residences, designed with a complete disregard for their natural settings and with quick profits their only architectural principle.

To make room for these mushroom growths many lovely old estates were being broken up and many ancient and beautiful buildings falling under the demolition hammers. Much that had been the pride of the neighbouring countryside, and indeed of the whole nation, was being destroyed or marred irreparably.

It was to check this situation that the National Trust was founded in 1895. Its aim was to preserve for the British people for all time as much as possible

of the history and beauty of this country. Its first property was acquired in its foundation year when a friend of Octavia Hill's—a Mrs. Talbot—presented the beautiful cliffland estate of Dinas Oleu overlooking Cardigan Bay.

Since then the story of the Trust is the story of progress extending over half a century. To-day the Trust owns 120,000 acres of land, as well as controlling some 40,000 acres of land and buildings protected by covenants.

Much of this property has been acquired through funds raised by local appeals. Typical is Clumber Park adjoining Sherwood Forest, which was purchased in 1945 largely due to the support of local authorities who contributed to the special Trust Fund that had been set up. The money raised in surrounding villages, and the sixpences and shillings that Nottinghamshire miners collected helped no less, in their smaller way, to assure the preservation for all time of this local beauty spot.



Since the Trust's foundation, a series of Acts of Parliament have extended its powers to the protection of private estates through restrictive covenants. As a result, a patriotic land-owner who wishes to keep his land, but is prepared to hand over to the Trust its development value—either by sale or as a gift—can do so by entering into a covenant which gives the Trust, permanently, the right of veto or control of all building in that area. One of the most extensive single areas protected in this way is the Buttermere Valley in the Lake District (for whose preservation one of the Trust founders had fought so hard in the previous century).

Apart from restrictive covenants, there are several ways in which properties may come to the Trust. They may be purchased by some public benefactor, or by public subscription. Or the property may be handed over as a gift from the owner or as a bequest—and all property so given or left by will is free from death duties. But the Trust cannot accept any property unless it is self-supporting or there is an adequate endowment for its upkeep.

Unlike a private land-owner, the Trust does not pay income tax, nor, by a similar Government





concession, does it pay taxes on any deer on its estates. It does, however, pay land taxes to local authorities and out of its endowments have to come the wages of all concerned in the upkeep of its estates, such as the many gardeners, cleaners and caretakers required to maintain them as a public show-piece.

Though the State is sympathetic with its objects, the Trust has never received any direct financial aid from Government sources. A private, non-profit-making organization, it is enabled to carry on its work only by the revenue which comes from private donations and bequests and from its annual membership subscriptions. It is financed, in fact, entirely by the private citizen.

The National Trust Act of 1937 gave the Trust special powers to collaborate with local authorities with a view to protection in their areas. Often Trust-owned property is leased to the local council to administer; or sometimes a mutual administration is arranged. Such an agreement has been reached recently between the Trust and the Stockport Corporation over Lyme Hall, a famous Jacobean residence, which was opened to the public on June 14. The Trust will maintain and show its state rooms with their historic furnishings and art collection, while the local Corporation will administer the grounds as a public park.

Or occasionally, again, a Trust-owned property is leased to a Youth movement or other similar organization for their members' use. The sixteenth-century manor house at Wilderhope in Shropshire, for instance, which was presented by the Cadbury Trust in 1936, is now leased to the Youth Hostels Association, and many equally lovely old residences are at the disposal of young holiday-makers elsewhere.

The National Trust is concerned only with property and land in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but there is a similar, though quite separate, National Trust for Scotland, which is engaged in work of the same nature in areas north of the border.

Under the green and silver sign of the oak leaves and acorn there

(continued on page 18)

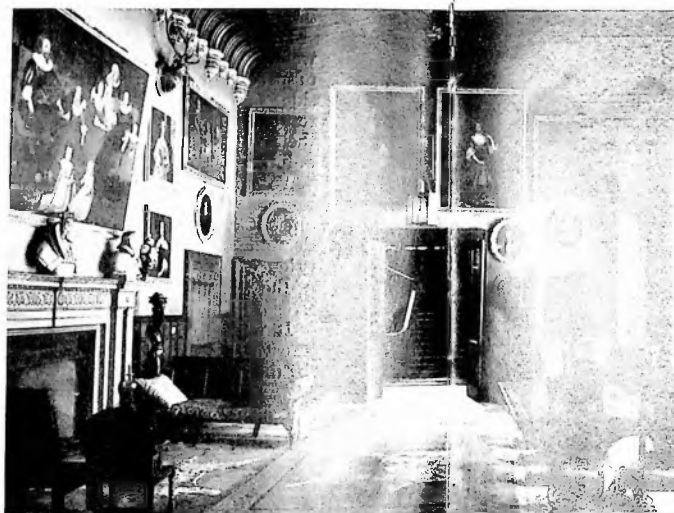
West of Lake Windermere, the village of Troutbeck lies in a fold of the hills where centuries ago the Romans made their camp. Townend Farm, whose grazing land stretches down to the hamlet, was built by a Westmorland yeoman in the sixteenth century and stayed in his family until acquired by the Trust in 1944.

Described, justly, as one of the most beautiful villages in England, Lacock nestles on the west bank of the Bristol Avon, its winding streets gracious with the old stone of fifteenth-century cottages. It was presented to the Trust three years ago, together with the famous Abbey and Manor Farm.



Four centuries ago Charlecote Manor was already assured of immortality. Shakespeare, caught and brought before its owner for poaching deer in the park, took his revenge on Sir Thomas Lucy by burlesquing him in "The Merry Wives of Windsor." One of the few manors in which Queen Elizabeth actually spent a night, Charlecote was presented to the Trust in 1945, together with the historic and lovely furnishings that fill its state rooms.

"Times" photos.





Specially drawn for Citizen by Dennis Flanders

The Market Hall, Chipping Campden

With the growing wealth of the Tudor merchants, Chipping Campden developed as a centre of the Cotswold woollen industry. Her close commercial ties with the City of London undoubtedly led Sir Baptist Hicks, mercer and some time Lord Mayor of London, to purchase Campden Manor in 1609. Here he built the Market Hall, whose honey-coloured arches blend with the gabled cottages in the High Street. Threatened with demolition in 1944, the Hall was presented to the National Trust for preservation.

PRIDE OF A NATION (continued from page 16)

is already preserved a wealth of historic and beautiful properties, from the stately home to the wayside bridge—the most famous of which, perhaps, is the Viator's bridge at Milldale, Devon, mentioned in *The Compleat Angler*, and a favourite fishing spot of Isaac Walton; properties as diverse, again, as courtyards, barns, dovecotes and mills such as the lovely old Quarry Bank Mill, situated in the heart of the Bollin Valley and still operating as a cotton shed with a staff of 15 weavers.

Under similar covenants, the Trust holds a number of literary shrines, recent ones including Lawrence of Arabia's cottage at Cloud's Hill in Dorset and George Bernard Shaw's residence at Ayot St. Lawrence in Hertfordshire. In addition there are, of course, the many natural preserves that have come to the Trust through private bequests over a course of years. Best known, probably, are the bird sanctuaries in the Fens, the first of which was presented as long ago as 1899, and the even more famous sanctuary in the Farne Islands, off the coast of Northumberland.

THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Treasurer of the People's Money

A. J. GRANT

THE citizen who is interested in the administration of the services provided by his town council no doubt wonders what those public officials really do who are responsible for taking such a slice out of the rates. The writer can recall a councillor who once, in open council, referred to officials as parasites when the question of an increase in salaries was being debated. The story has been told, true or otherwise, that when a farmer was setting foot on Canadian soil for the first time he was asked what he thought of Canada, and replied "I'm agin the Government." Many ratepayers are, in the main quite unjustly it is contended, also "agin the official."

The purpose of this article is to bring into the limelight one of the most important officials engaged in the sphere of local government, and to show how, far from being a parasite, he can save his salary many times over. He is none other than the chief financial officer who is associated in so many minds with the rate demand note, the electricity account and also, possibly, an account for rat and mice disinfection.

In a variety of ways he can effect savings and bring financial gain to his local authority.

In the sphere of Income Tax, local authorities, with minor exceptions, are assessable for taxation in much the same way as individuals and companies, but owing to the diversity of their services, the law and other reasons, the Schedule D Assessments and "Set-Off" Statements are extremely complicated. Here, with a sound knowledge of Income Tax Law and by watching points, the chief financial officer can save considerable sums.

"PAY-AS-WE-GO"

With statutory authority and also, in most instances with the approval of the appropriate Government Department, local authorities may borrow money, secured on their rates and revenues, which entails eventual repayment of such loans with interest. The longer the period for which such sums are borrowed the greater the loan charges to be borne by the rates or the undertakings concerned. The result is that the more prudent financial officers adopt the policy of "paying-as-we-go," which means that whenever possible capital expenditure is charged direct to the rates or to the net revenue account or reserve fund in the case of capital expenditure incurred in respect of trading undertakings. The resultant saving in loan charges must reach large sums throughout the country in the course of a normal financial year. Officers are not slow in making use of the Superannuation Funds for the exercise of borrowing powers which saves outside

borrowing whilst at the same time benefiting these Funds.

MUNICIPAL TRADING

Within statutory limits, some of the surplus income of trading undertakings may be applied to the relief of rates which is, of course, a direct benefit to the ratepayers. This has caused controversy in some quarters as it is argued that ratepayers and consumers are not always one and the same. Against this it can be stated that if undertakings should sustain a loss the ratepayers would have to meet it out of their already depleted pockets.

By the installation of efficient costing systems, the chief financial officer is enabled to ensure that correct charges are made in appropriate cases, and also by his intelligent criticism of statements presented to him may eliminate inefficient administration of the services concerned.

Many of the larger authorities are successful in promoting acts which apply to their areas and the opportunity is invariably taken to incorporate sound financial provisions. It is interesting to observe that some councils, due to the chief financial officers' advice, have their own Municipal Insurance Funds which not only effect large savings in premiums which would otherwise be paid away to Insurance Companies but also bring income to these Funds by Investments. They may also be used for capital expenditure provided, of course, that amounts so utilized are repaid in accordance with the statutory borrowing power.

SERVANT AND CITIZEN

Finally, his relationship to the citizen was clearly set out in the case of Attorney-General *v. de Winton* 1906 (popularly known in local government as the "Tenby" case), which dealt with a treasurer under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882. The following remarks made by the Judge are well worth quoting:

"the treasurer is not a mere servant of the council: he owes a duty and stands in a fiduciary relation to the burgesses as a body, he is the treasurer of the borough . . . and although he holds office during the pleasure of the council only this does not enable him to plead the orders of the council as an excuse for an unlawful act."

True, this dictum applies solely to the treasurer of a borough council, but there are sufficient boroughs in the country to make it one of real importance.

In this capacity as servant both of the council and the people, the chief financial officer can play a decisive part in determining the prosperity of his particular community.



TRAMP CONVERSION

Training Hostel for Devon Vagrants

WHAT is to be done with the thousands of tramps who are again wandering round the countryside from one casual ward to another, with no aim in life other than covering each day the 20 odd miles between their "homes" in good time to find a bed for the night?

It is a problem of concern to all local authorities, and to Devon County Council in particular, who are faced with a startling increase in their number of vagrants since the end of the war. In December, 1944, there were only 78 tramps in the County; two years later this figure had doubled, and two months after that it had increased fivefold to 394.

There are some who say that nothing can be done with these people—that the wanderlust has eaten so deeply into them that it will never be eradicated. Devon County Council, however, have introduced a scheme, which they believe will go far towards a solution.

DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING

In a report presented by Mr. Sykes, their Public Assistance Officer, a tightening of discipline was recommended. The men should be detained two nights, be bathed, and required to do eight hours' work the day after their admission. It was further suggested that any money found on the casuals should be taken towards their maintenance.

On the other hand, in addition to these obvious deterrents, it was proposed that a hostel at South Brent should be used as a place of rehabilitation and training for the younger and more redeemable casuals. This scheme was approved by the Devon Public Assistance Committee and the Ministry of Labour. Early in May the 17 old folk who had been housed at South Brent were moved to other institutions and the first "trainees" have now been accepted.

The men will be taught a trade in the locality—possibly at Plymouth, which is only a few miles away—and housed at South Brent, where they will get the creature comforts of decent beds, hot baths, shower baths, appetizing regular meals and use of the small laundry and drying rooms.

"A far cry from bare boards raised four inches from the floor, and the menial task of breaking up stones," said Mr. Sykes.

THE COST WILL BE NEGLIGIBLE

Vagrants of any age up to 60 will be eligible for participation in the scheme. "But even with 400 tramps on the roads and the hostel accommodating only 40, I don't expect a rush," said Mr. Sykes. "I should say that as few as five per cent. of our casuals are ready and willing to come back to a normal life."

It is not at present intended to engage instructors at the hostel. Those participating in the scheme will go to firms as trainees or apprentices, and some perhaps will go in for Government training schemes in such crafts as thatching, living at the hostel and paying for their keep out of the money they earn. The cost to the county will therefore be negligible.

"I hope for some success in this scheme," was Mr. Sykes' opinion, "but I know it won't be sensational. Vagrancy to my mind is a pernicious and rotten habit, and I should say that Poor Law relief is less humiliating. I've no room for the casual as a casual, but let's do our best for them without adding to their humiliation."

NO HINT OF HUMILIATION

Looking at the bright clean-swept rooms of the white brick buildings that form the hostel, there is no hint of humiliation. Indeed, very much the reverse. Beds are clean and comfortable; there is a day room with games, a spacious kitchen, a trim garden and a sick bay for those who need it.

In point of fact the people who find fault with everything will probably say that we are pampering our tramps.

But Mr. Sykes' humanitarian view is that even if only one of them can be brought back to the normal life the scheme will have justified itself. In his words, "Some of these men are tramps simply because they have nowhere to live—especially the younger ones. The South Brent Hostel will help to solve many problems."



IN Barchester we have had a couple of appointments of Chief Officers to make and this has led us into the usual discussions of the advantages of promotion from within against appointments from outside. I mentioned this to the Mayor of Silverbridge and was rather surprised at the outburst I provoked.

"In Silverbridge," he said, "we have had some. Our last Town Clerk came to us as an office boy. He was with us for fifty years. Of course he was a bit old fashioned and all that, so some of our young progressives were all for having one of these new-fangled lawyer chaps to succeed him. We got one—a smart young fellow from Lancashire of 32, knew his stuff and as bumptious as they make them. Was with us for 18 months, turned the place upside down and then left for a county borough. Never again—you hear wherever you go. You appoint an outsider—he spends two years learning the job at your expense and then two years travelling round the country being interviewed at other councils' expense. Then you start all over again with another one. I am all for a local chap with roots in the place, who's likely to stay and give you some service."

Now my brother of Silverbridge is a cantankerous old gentleman and what he says is by no means the whole story. But it has a substance of truth behind it. Many councillors feel that the contract for local government service is rather one-sided. If you choose the wrong man, it is virtually impossible to get rid of him, whatever the contract may say about a month or three months' notice. If he is good at his job, he will be off to a better one as soon as maybe.

It may be said that if Barchester and Silverbridge would pay decent salaries, they would not always be losing officers. But we are small boroughs and we cannot hope to compete with big and wealthy towns. Nor is it always a question of salary, some officers will move for very little increase of salary in order to gain experience. Is it unreasonable for councils to ask that if a man applies for a job at a given salary, he ought to be prepared to stay in it for five or ten years, even if a better one comes into prospect; the consideration for this being the security he expects if things do not go well with him?

Little good would follow from making contracts terminable at longer notice. It would require concerted action from councils or else it would hopelessly restrict the field of applicants. But even if it were practicable, there is little to be gained from keeping a man in a job he is anxious to leave. Nevertheless engaging councils can do something to help. In Barchester we have an unwritten rule not to look at an application from anyone who has



been less than a couple of years in his job. We do it, not so much out of regard for other authorities, but because we feel that these applicants would leave us just as lightly and that they lack the steadiness of character for which we are looking.

Perhaps a good deal of the trouble comes from the fashion of appointing young chief officers. A man retires at 65 but he is not likely to get a new appointment after 45. In other words he has only about 20 years to climb up the ladder from the bottom with the prospect of "staying put" for another 20. It is not surprising that ambitious men are always keeping an eye cocked for a move

upwards and become restless if they spend more than a few years in one post. If Barchester and Silverbridge want stability they should look for older men. Without necessarily reversing the usual order and endorsing their advertisements, "candidates must be over 40," they can bear in mind that if they select the younger of two men, they are likely to pay for greater brilliance with shorter service.

The irony is that the big cities which provide the "plums" for the service, just because there are few better jobs available, are likely any way to keep their officers. Yet it is often these who are most accustomed to choose young men and bring consequent changes among the officers of the smaller authorities. Presumably they are influenced not only by the desire to get some years service from their Chief Officer before his arteries harden, but also by the prospect of some continuity—for he will only be a young man for a few of his years of service.

It is not therefore surprising that small councils should get tired of being used as temporary training grounds. The good professional sense of officers should be a substantial protection. Good men must surely recognize that they cannot do justice to a job in a year or two and that by taking an appointment they always run some risk of losing the chance for a better one.

Beyond that, councils who have difficulty in keeping officers in competition with bigger authorities can often help themselves by looking more seriously at the applications of the middle aged.

Mayor of Barchester



HOLIDAY WITH A HAVERSACK

The Youth Hostel Way

THERE are two ways to spend a holiday.

You can take the stereotyped comforts of an hotel and the static pleasures of a chosen resort. Or you can pack a haversack and wander, untied to any meal gongs and making your bed exactly where you find it. Tonight, you may sleep in a shepherd's hut on the side of a mountain; to-morrow under the oak beams of a baronial manor; and the next morning be off again, your holiday still only just beginning.

If you're young, healthy and not nervous of the weather, the latter way is infinitely more fun, and considerably less expensive. That explains—in part, at least—why the Youth Hostel membership has increased steadily since its foundation in 1930, until now, at 166,000, it is almost double its pre-war figure.

Despite soaring prices elsewhere, the Youth Hostels have increased their charges only a modest few pence since the war. Nowadays 1s. 6d. for a night's lodging, a few pounds will still take you round the coast of Cornwall and back, and leave enough over for any itinerant treats within reason.

NO ROOM SERVICE

There is more to the Youth Hostel movement, of course, than simply the provision of cheap holidays. An open-air fellowship, its more serious aim is to foster an appreciation and care of the countryside, as well as the mere use of it. Youth Hostels have little time for the town-dweller who only wants to exploit the country as a selfish playground, leaving behind a trail of litter and ill-feeling amongst those who earn their living there. They have little space, either, for the occasional hopeful who turns up expecting breakfast in bed and her bath towel all nice and ready. There is no room service, no bath towel, and no-one ever pretended that there was.

Planned as a link across the country and always a day's walking distance apart, the Hostels cater for the hiker or cyclist who demands, simply and unpretentiously, somewhere to sleep; something to eat; and some place to slip into soft shoes when the day's

journey is over. Furnishings are simple, even austere. Dining rooms with distempered walls and trestle tables; dormitories holding anything from four to 20 beds, double-tiered or single, according to the height of the ceiling.

You wash by tap, farmyard pump or nearby stream, according to the hostel and the route you have chosen. And, optionally, you bring and cook your own food in the members' kitchen—all utensils are provided; or order your meals in advance from the Warden (who, for 1s. 3d., will fix you up a cold meat salad with home-grown vegetables and potatoes, stewed fruit and pudding, and cups of tea).

THE SCENE CHANGES

In the members' common room you'll meet all sorts from the city typist to the Oxford professor; from the newly-fledged school teacher to the elderly factory-hand. For, in spite of its name, the movement has its sprinkling of over-forties, as well as the over-sixties who found in their early days that the open-air holiday suited them and have returned to it annually ever since. "My name's So-and-So; what's yours?" is the only introduction you will need.

Just as, each dusk, you will meet new companions of all manner and kind, so the hostels themselves will vary almost as much. Though a few have been specially built for the purpose, complete with all the modern comforts of cold showers and hot baths, the majority are buildings converted merely by the addition of extra washing accommodation for both sexes. In the course of a week you are likely to sleep under roofs as various as a converted farmhouse, a mediaeval water-mill and a duchess's castle still ornate with the historic splendours of gilded ceilings and moulded cornices.

That is all part of the fun of this pot-luck holiday, just as it is all part of the game that you help the Warden prepare the next day's vegetables and assist in tidying up before you leave. Shared by a full house of fellow-travellers, these duties are usually through within half-an-hour of breakfast.

There are other minor conditions, including the no-smoking rule in dormitories and the ban on

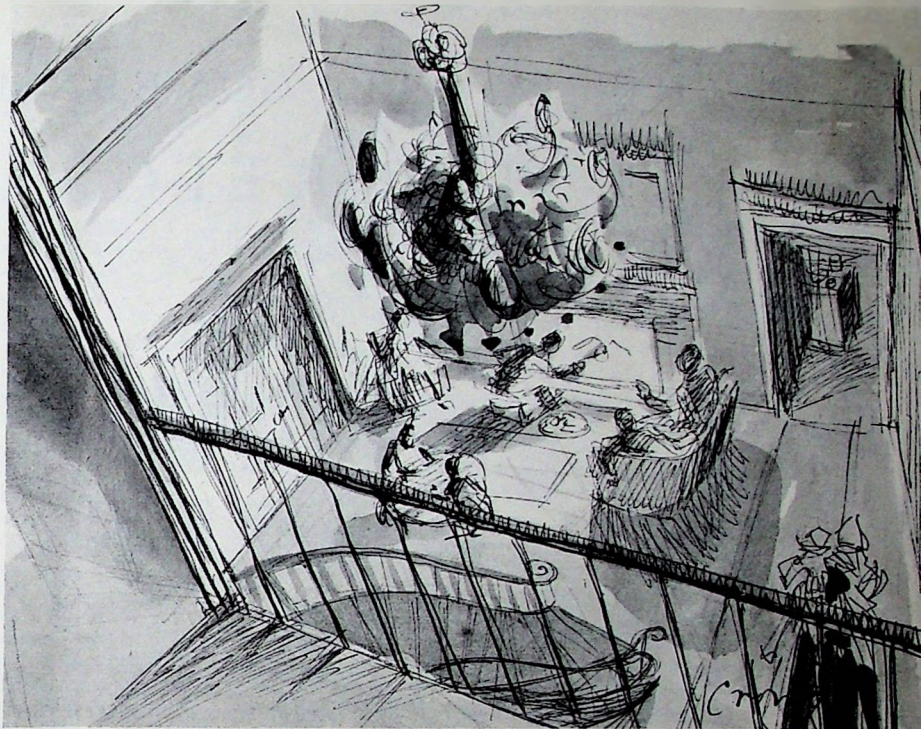


intoxicants being brought into the hostel. If you want your odd pint—well, the village pub is down the road. Similarly, there is a rule that no member may spend more than three consecutive nights in any hostel. Since they were never intended for the residential holiday-maker, this limit-on-stay is an obvious safeguard against those who would otherwise use them as boarding-houses, blocking the way for the genuine traveller.

The rule that no children under nine are admitted has always meant that many members have to drop out after marriage. Sad for young couples whose only chance of an open-air holiday was through youth hostelling, it is none the less an understandable condition when you remember the whole aim of the movement and the fact that small children could never make the distance between each night's rest.

A time-honoured controversy has always centred round the right of motorists and motor-cyclists to use Youth Hostels. High-powered holidaymakers racing from hostel to hostel in a cloud of smoke and petrol fumes were a bone of contention that only a majority decision last year finally managed to settle. Now, as a result, a membership card means, without exception, that you must travel on foot, cycle or canoe. (Unrealistic as the latter may sound, there are many hostels situated near rivers, canals and lakes—and a not inconsiderable number of members who prefer the novel approach.)

Milder and altogether more good-humoured is



the current controversy over the "suitcase hosteller"—the member who arrives via the nearest bus stop, urbanely equipped with an attache case and trim sports clothes. A rambler rather than a hiker, he (or she) then proceeds to potter gently about the nearby countryside, using the hostel as a base to which to return at night.

With the spread of the five-day week and the increasing number of young office and industrial workers having weekends free for travel, it's a youth hostelling technique that's growing. And already the movement, young and flexible, is expanding to make way for it. On a two-day holiday the quickest way out of the towns is by bus; so why frown on those who take it?

No matter how convenient the local transport services, the majority of hostellers, it is realized, will still prefer to make their way up the valleys and dales by foot, cycle, or canoe. That is the real Youth Hostel way and only the few will want to exchange it for another.



THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF GREECE

ALTHOUGH local self-government in its present form dates from the Constitution of 1843, granted under King Otho, a certain degree of communal self-government already existed in Greece under the Ottoman rule. The Christian communities were allowed a considerable measure of self-government in such questions as education, poor relief and public utility works, and the Communal Councils (called *Démogerontia* or Council of Elders) were composed of the wealthier house-holders. Thus, at the time of the liberation of Greece in 1830, the nucleus of a system of local government was already in existence.

At present local government in the English sense is confined to Boroughs (called *Dêmes*) and villages (called *Communes*). Classed as *Dêmes* are towns with a population of 10,000 and over. A *Commune* is a town of less than 10,000 inhabitants and may include a number of small rural settlements grouped round the main village. The total number of *Dêmes* and *Communes* in Greece in 1934 (the last year for which figures are available) was 5,657, of which 50 were *Dêmes* and 5,607 *Communes*.

NO WOMEN COUNCILLORS

Municipal elections take place every four years. They are usually contested on party lines corresponding to the main political parties in the country.

In Boroughs, the Mayor is called *Démarch*, while in the *Commune* he bears the title of *Proedros* (President). Mayors and Councils are elected by direct, secret and equal suffrage. Until 1930, the municipal suffrage was confined to males over 21 years of age, but in that year it was extended to literate women over 30. Women, however, are still not eligible as Municipal or Communal Councillors.

Budgets referring to rates in *Dêmes* and *Communes* must be approved by the *Nomarch*—an official appointed by the Government—and annual accounts are audited by the Prefecture. Municipal taxation usually includes a surtax on the State tax on house property, an *octroi* on goods entering the municipal area, and a tax on animals slaughtered. The last two are often farmed. The above are the general rule, but there are also local variations of taxation—



for instance, in tobacco-producing areas there is a tax on leaf tobacco exported from the area.

Certain *Dêmes* or *Communes* may receive grants from the Central Government. In the case of rural *Communes*, the *Nomarch* may, in exceptional circumstances, when a bridge has broken down or a road needs repair, authorize a certain number of days compulsory work for local farmers, who give unpaid labour instead of tax.

Dêmes or *Communes* wishing to borrow must obtain the approval of the Ministry of the Interior, which has a separate Local Government Department to deal with all matters concerning the *Dêmes* and *Communes*. The Ministry of Finance must also give its approval when it is a question of raising revenue by taxes.

PROVINCIAL COUNCILS SOON?

For the purpose of provincial administration, Greece is divided into 38 administrative districts (*Nomoi*) which are governed by the *Nomarch*. His functions correspond to those of a French *préfet*—that is to say, he controls the police and other local services of the Ministry of the Interior. In other directions, his authority is limited, as Education, Public Works, Public Health and the Fiscal services come under their respective Ministries. The *Nomos* or Province, as such, has no budget of its own, nor are there any provincial Councils.

The introduction of elected Provincial Councils (corresponding to County Councils) figures in the programme of the Populist Party, at present the largest political party in Greece, but no measure in this sense has so far been introduced in the Chamber. The difficulties in the way of such a measure are mainly fiscal; the introduction of provincial budgets would mean that the State would have to surrender part of its revenue if the Provincial Councils were to assume the responsibility for local expenditure, such as roads and schools. All such expenditure, is at present, included in the National Budget under the Ministries concerned, which allocate the expenditure to the various districts in accordance with their needs.

Opinion by Post

Wandsworth Civic Week

SIR,—You will be interested to know that news of the Exhibition, including the Opening Day speech, was flashed across the world by the B.B.C. in their radio news reel programme.

We had a letter to-day from a soldier in the Middle East asking for all the literature we could send him on the Civic Week, and copies of the handbook have gone as far as America and Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Municipal Buildings,
Wandsworth, S.W. 18.

ROBERT RIDDELL,
Hon. Secretary,
Wandsworth Borough Council.

Voluntary Organizations

—An Answer to a Letter

SIR,—Owing to absence in South Africa I have only just seen Alderman Franklin's letter published in your March issue. I owe him my apologies for this unavoidable delay as well as my thanks for the opportunity to refer to three points not fully developed in my article.

First, I am not prepared to accept Alderman Franklin's division of voluntary organizations into those which "exist to advance the interests of the group" and those "designed to serve the community at large." I should be reluctant to think that neither political parties nor trade unions provided "opportunity for voluntary personal service by individuals in a spirit of altruistic idealism"; or that they had little general interest. Trade unions have played an honourable and distinguished part in the evolution of our pattern of community activity and social service. Neither am I sure that the other type of organization is completely altruistic. Surely the truth is that all voluntary groups inevitably have specialized and sectional interests, and that from their interplay modern democracy evolves.

Secondly, the relationship of the volunteer to the professional is surely very different from that which Alderman Franklin suggests, and the line of probable development the reverse of that which he fears. The professional does not diminish, but enormously extends the scope of the volunteer. His expert knowledge and freedom to devote his whole time to the work make it possible for more volunteers to contribute, and to do so more effectively. May I take examples from one of the services sponsored by the National Council of Social Service—the Citizens' Advice Bureau: its use and excellence are unquestioned; its personnel has been from 90 per cent. to 95 per cent. volunteers throughout, but I cannot imagine the service without a core of professionals at the centre.

Finally, the direct question "to what extent and under what circumstances, if any, do I consider it wise and proper to subsidize voluntary organizations from the local rates." My general answer on circumstances would be: whenever there is probable gain to the local community from the existence of the voluntary organization and a *prima facie* case that it cannot have full effect without subsidy. (I am assuming legal power, of course.) When there is a choice between the local authority subsidizing a voluntary organization or doing the work itself, the decision must clearly depend upon efficiency and economy. In striking the balance, however, the importance of the volunteer's free co-operation should not be forgotten, and that not merely in the specific task under consideration but also in the general area of the authority's activity.

On "extent" I would say: the fullest necessary. If the authority thinks the voluntary organization competent it should give it proper support; if not, no support at all. More harm than good is done by niggling grants that imply liability but deny adequate development.

I am,

Yours very truly,

P. MALCOLM STEWART,

President,

National Council of
Social Service.

26, Bedford Square,
London, W.C. 1.



June

The first long days of midsummer bring thoughts of travel whether you are beginning to plan your holiday or whether you feel that now would be an appropriate time for that long-deferred business trip, preparations have to be made. The Midland Bank is ready to assist you with the services of experienced specialists in exchange matters, by obtaining your foreign currency and by providing travellers' cheques and letters of credit which are readily encashable abroad. With an unrivalled reputation overseas, this Bank has thousands of agents throughout the world who are at all times ready to assist its customers.

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

SOMETIMES, dejected by the spectacle of my bacon ration marooned in an eggless waste of breakfast plate, I have had unworthy thoughts about the Minister of Food. Spitefully and in ignorance, I revenged myself by elephantine irony about his Rural Pie Scheme.

Now I read that Thedwastre Rural District Council sold 655,050 pics, made £1,791 profit and are applying it to recreation rooms and playing fields.

I withdraw unreservedly. I will even eat a Rural Pie if ever I encounter one: particularly as vendors must insure against poisoning consumers.

More seriously, I am indebted to Mr. Dove, whose letter appeared last month, for correcting my belief that expenditure on public libraries was still restricted by statute in England and Wales. Apparently the limitation, to the product of a penny rate, was abolished in 1919.

"They never tell nobody nothing these days, do they."

Readers, including Mr. Dove, are cordially invited to keep a watchful eye on this page, which will probably rival Ronnie Waldman's Puzzle Corner as a source of amusing blunders, the difference being that his are deliberate.

I note that Mr. Dove accurately refers to England and Wales. Am I right in believing—dare I risk it?—that Scotland still restricts expenditure to a 3d. rate?

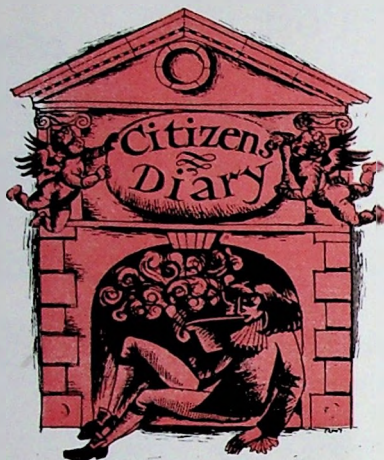
A visit to Sheffield reminded me that some months ago I urged prefabricated shops with prefabricated houses, to prevent overcrowding in existing nearby shops. There is another aspect of the same problem.

Of five large department stores in Sheffield only one survived the blitz: small shops wrecked must number hundreds. Yet the population is probably greater now than before the war.

The results are congested shops, queuing housewives, harassed assistants and—despite Ministerial assurances about "maintenance of the pre-war level of supplies"—noticeably fewer unrationed goods than elsewhere.

Meanwhile, charred and shattered ruins still stand derelict, as offensive to the eye and depressing to the spirit as a drab and dirty garment to its wearer. Surely, without unduly affecting the housing drive, these gaunt eyesores could be demolished, sites made tidy and temporary shops erected to spread the shopping load.

Coventry did it years ago.



I once knew Billy Slater
He worked along with me,
And many's the time he called me
mate or
Whistled a song with me.

I once knew Billy Slater
He used to come to tea,
But County Councillor William
Slater
Doesn't remember me.

At the Scottish Trades Union Congress at Saint Andrews, where some of the pepper intended by Tory students for the Prime Minister fell near enough to me to give me all the sensations of a "sninch of puff," I listened almost in vain for items with a civic relevance:

which is itself an item of importance.

Of seventy-nine motions on the agenda only four made even passing references to local authorities. Of eight on housing, one urged priority supplies for local authority schemes and the need for continuing slum clearance, while another called for increased subsidies and reduced rates of interest on housing loans. These two apart, only some special pleading by the Musicians' Union for rate contributions to a National Orchestra and a demand—which I supported—for more money for public libraries, had any relation to local government.

This in an agenda which ranged from tobacco taxation to nationalization of transport, from Poles in Scotland to trade unionists in Greece. Even the Prime Minister's peppery retort to a recent Churchillian broadside against our swelling bureaucracy dealt only with the Civil Service.

Is the influence of local government so little understood that men can talk for three days on production, unemployment, planning and development, housing, health and education as though the only source of effort and initiative is the appropriate Government Department?

It is. They can. They did.

Not in the Younger Hall, but in the lounge of my hotel, hard-by the hallowed greens and bestial bunkers of the Royal and Ancient, I heard one windbitten golfer tell another that the morrow's tournament was for officers "not below the rank of brigadier."

"Pass me a niblick, Sar'nt-Majah."

*Jonathan
Citizen*

MUSIC AND THE BOROUGH

Councillor RAYMOND NOTTAGE

MUSICIANS are looking to local Councils for help and encouragement. This is the gist of a booklet, "Music and the Borough Councillor," issued by the London Branch of the Musicians' Union. A survey of 67 authorities carried out by the Union reveals a good deal of enterprise and initiative, but it is disturbing to learn that no less than a third of the authorities who were approached refused to grant interviews. Further, only a small minority of Councils were found to have special standing committees to deal with entertainment and cultural activities. The musicians strongly favour the appointment of such committees and, by way of illustration, they describe what we have been able to achieve in Hornsey, Middlesex, through the Council's Arts and Recreation Committee.

Set up just over a year ago, the Committee's objects are to develop existing cultural and recreational activities in the Borough and to sponsor those which are beyond the resources of private effort.

One of the Committee's first jobs was to tackle the shortage of suitable accommodation. A little resource soon helped to make the Library Reading Rooms available for evening meetings, and a large house in spacious grounds is now being acquired for a community centre.

Concerts in the Sun for Holborn

THERE'S nothing novel about open-air concerts, as such. In summer every park has its bandstand and every pier its orchestra. But outdoor entertainments in a borough that has neither parks, piers nor any of the conventional accommodation makes news at once—particularly if that borough happens to be in the very heart of Central London, as Holborn is.

For the second year in succession Holborn is causing passers-by to pause and bored 'bus drivers to blink their eyes by turning her large and sunny squares into open-air concert platforms. Lacking a bandstand, the Council has improvised a mobile theatre from an old cart repainted in gay orange and black and ballasted to take the swing and leap of dancers.

Last year, as part of the Holidays-at-Home scheme, the Council engaged Spanish dancers who, with castanets and guitar, drew a crowd of 2,000 to Russell Square; while just round the corner in Red Lion Square there were Punch and Judy shows that kept the Town Hall busy for weeks answering encore requests.

This year, with the closing of the Holidays-at-Home scheme, the Council has ingeniously switched the

Regular concerts are held in the Town Hall in collaboration with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and afternoon concerts are given for the school-children. A Gramophone Society and a Literary Circle have been started and are flourishing. A short season of Ballet has been arranged for the autumn. Music, Drama and Sports Panels have been formed from representatives of the local amateur societies, to co-ordinate their various activities.

Hornsey has made a good start and has given practical confirmation of the results of a public opinion survey undertaken by the Gallup Poll for the Musicians' Union, which shows that most people favour the idea of their local Council arranging concerts.

J. B. Priestley recently asked this question: "Why spend millions preparing children to enjoy a cultured leisure and then, because we say we cannot afford anything else, turn them loose in a world of idiotic films, greyhound tracks, sunfairs and pornographic trash?" Hornsey is giving a practical answer to Mr. Priestley. Yet, in hundreds of boroughs the musicians are ready, the people are waiting, but no answer comes from the Councils. The time is surely ripe for them to accept their wider responsibilities.



A deck-chair and lunch in the open while the orchestra plays.

idea to Cultural Entertainments. A Metropolitan Borough, it has no powers to continue the popular entertainments, but recitals and amateur dramatic performances it *can* give under the L.C.C. General Powers Act—and this it is doing twice weekly all through the summer season.

Starting with a concert of Russian music on Whit Monday, Holborn is offering an open-air programme varying from plays, put on by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, to folk dancing; from balalaika to recitals of Elizabethan music similar to the one our representative attended (and in which the mobile theatre had to give way to a marquee because of the unwieldy size of the old-fashioned harpsichord). And round the corner there will still be Punch and Judy to delight the kiddies' hearts.

NEWS



FROM

New Park for Stockport

OFFICIALLY opened to the public by the Duchess of Kent on June 14, Lyme Hall and Park were recently handed by Lord Newton to the National Trust, which placed the property in the care of **Stockport Corporation**.

The value to the town of this gift is indicated by the many suggestions for its use which are being considered by the Corporation's Lyme Park Committee. The principal proposal has been that the Hall should be used as a residential centre for informal adult education, and discussions have been held with the Lancashire County Council, Manchester City Council, the Community Council of Lancashire and the Extra Mural Studies Department of Manchester University. Other suggestions are for the establishment of a school of training in park administration, and a rehabilitation and horticultural training centre for ex-Servicemen. A further suggestion is that Stockport Parks Department should establish headquarters there. No decision has yet been reached.

At present the Hall can be rented for social functions, meetings and cultural activities. A guide book to the Hall has been prepared by the National Trust, and profits from its sale will be placed to the credit of Stockport Corporation towards the maintenance of the Hall. The Trust is to loan furniture and works of art to add to Lord Newton's loan.

The Committee has agreed to the proposal that Cheadle and District Model Aeronautical Society should have permission to fly model aircraft in the Park, providing no nuisance is caused to the public; and in principle to the application from Disley Horticultural Society to hold their 1948 show there.

At the meeting of the Stockport Town Council, Councillor W. J. Davies asked whether it was the intention to apply for a drink licence—a Disley resident asked him if it was the intention to have "bottle parties." Alderman Ponsonby said that if Lord Newton in days gone by had had an uproarious party, the residents of Disley did not object very much. If there were a demand for a licence he did not feel they should give in so readily to the Disley people. If people at the end of a mile-and-a-half walk from the gates could not have a drink it was going to be pretty awful. He did not think everyone wanted "pop" or milk.

Alderman Sutcliffe, chairman of the Stockport Lyme Park Committee, said they did not need Disley or anybody else to be guardians over them. They had the same ideals in common to preserve the natural beauties of the Park, but some Disley people seemed to have the idea that natural beauty should be preserved for the few residents who have been fortunate enough to buy houses adjoining that Park. His idea was that the townspeople of Stockport should enjoy it, and amenities had, therefore, to be provided.

Dustmen's Homily

Housewives at **Felixstowe** may not recognize the dustman who comes to the door in future. He will appear wearing his best suit and carrying a bulging brief-case.

For Felixstowe Urban District Council have picked a team of salvage canvassers from its most persuasive dustmen—to send them on a door-to-door tour of the town. To every housewife he will deliver a homily on the importance of salvage, varying his approach with his first-hand knowledge of the salvage record of each household.

An experienced commercial canvasser will give the dustmen personal tuition.



Cornish Custom

Apeing the ceremony and tradition of which their Borough is so proud, people of **Launceston (Cornwall)** this week elected a "Lord Mayor of Tower Street". Following a "proclamation," the "Lord Mayor" was granted the freedom of the Bell Inn, and the "Mayoress" was presented with bouquets.

After assuming office, the new "Mayor" and "Freeman" made a ceremonial procession of his domain, riding in a carriage drawn by Shetland ponies and preceded by his "mace-bearer".

Folk-dancing and supper concluded the ceremony, which was not all comedy, for collecting boxes raised £15 for the Cornish Blind.

ALL QUARTERS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

A Bold Venture

Wellington (Shropshire), which has a population of about 11,000, is to submit to the Ministry of Health plans for a new civic centre estimated to cost £120,000. It will include a public hall to seat 1,000 people, municipal offices, reading room and library, a block for Government offices, and a bell tower.

At a meeting of the Urban District Council, adoption of the scheme was urged by councillors who thought the whole town needed re-planning, but opposition was made by members on financial grounds—Wellington's rate has just risen by 2s. 8d.—and also on the ground that the Boundary Commission might make proposals which would render the plan unwise. An amendment to defer the matter was defeated.

Reversed Charges

Because the council have only 1s. 6d. in the bank, **Gosfield (Essex)** parish councillors will have to bear the cost of a new village telephone kiosk themselves. The council placed the order with the G.P.O., but subsequently a parish meeting refused to authorize the council to levy a rate to defray the cost.

Beating the Bounds

With the object of getting young people to take an interest in the town, the Mayor of **Beccles (East Suffolk)** (Mr. E. J. Hindes) is arranging for the ancient custom of beating the bounds of the Borough to be observed for the first time within living memory.

Although he will be 87 in July, he hopes to take part in the perambulation, accompanied by the Sergeant-at-Mace.

The young people will be provided with long staffs decorated with ribbons.

Instead of the old practice of bumping a boy, or ducking him in a dyke, the occasion will be marked by halts for refreshments at various points.

The boundary stretches for about eight miles. Boats will be used to go down the middle of the River Waveney for the three miles from the end of the boundary dyke to Roos Hall, and where possible, road conveyance will also be provided.

Literary Omnibus

At a meeting of **Stockport** Town Council the Chairman of the Libraries Committee intimated that he would consider the suggestion that old 'buses might be used as mobile libraries in view of the difficulties of building permanent branch libraries.



Stourbridge Spells a Rat

A plea by a member of **Stourbridge (Worcs.)** Town Council for the use of a little more basic English in advertisements issued by the authority has met with solid support from other members of the Council.

When the resignation of the town's Rodent Operative was reported at the Council meeting and it was recommended that the post be advertised, Councillor Hammersley objected to the use of such an "obnoxious" title and enquired why the man was not called a rat catcher.

A reference back to committee of the matter was withdrawn after the Town Clerk had reminded the Council of the undesirability of granting a respite in "Ratland" while the question of the executioner's designation was debated, and it was eventually agreed that the man be known henceforward as a rat catcher or rat killer.

A short time ago the adjacent Urban District of Brierley Hill did not receive a single application for the job advertised as "rat catcher," but when the same job was advertised as "rodent operative" at a reduced salary, several applications were received!

An Ill Wind . . .

To dispose of accumulated profits before nationalization of the electricity industry, **Bredbury and Romiley (Cheshire)** Urban District Council is offering consumers 25 per cent. discount on promptly paid accounts.

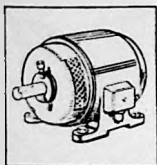
Apart from industrial users, the Council has more than 5,000 domestic consumers, who will benefit to the extent of about 15s. each.



E.D.A. Explains —

THE INDUCTION MOTOR

The Induction Motor depends for its operation on transformer action; it is therefore only suitable for use on A.C. supplies.



Standard practice is to fit roller bearings at the drive end and ball-bearings at the opposite end.

COMPONENTS

The motor consists of a stationary part (the stator) having a primary winding of insulated copper conductors embedded in a laminated core, and a revolving part (the rotor), which contains the secondary winding.

ACTION

When the stator winding is connected to the supply, the currents produce a revolving magnetic field which induces currents in the rotor conductors.

The rotor currents react on the stator field in such a manner that the rotor turns in the direction of the revolving field. The rotor speed is always slightly lower than the speed of the revolving field. At full load the difference in speed — known as the "slip" — may be from 3 to 5 per cent.

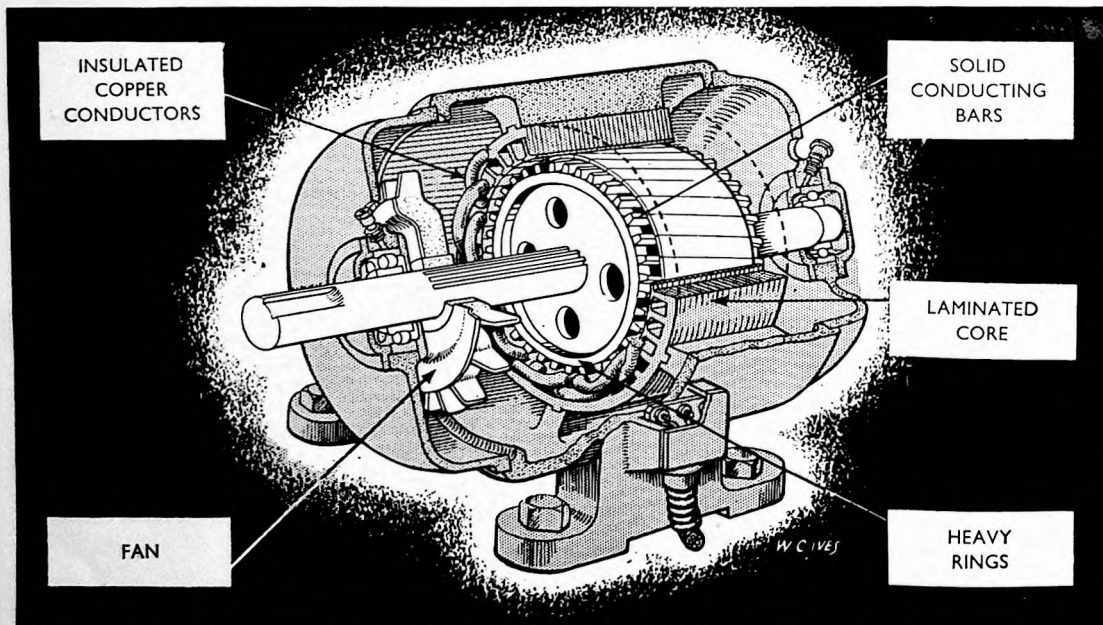
CONSTRUCTION

By far the greatest numbers of Induction Motors in use are the "cage" — or "squirrel cage" type. They are so named because the rotor is composed of solid conducting bars short-circuited at their ends by heavy rings; the general appearance is reminiscent of the old-fashioned squirrel-exercising cage. The rotor assembly is completed by the provision of a fan fitted to the shaft, to promote air circulation. Alternatively a centrifugally cast aluminium cage may be used, having fins on the end-rings to assist ventilation. The cage rotor is virtually indestructible in service.



MAINTENANCE

As there are no brushes or current collecting parts, very little maintenance is needed; in fact, apart from the application of grease to the bearings once or twice a year, the only attention that may be required is the blowing out of dust, which if allowed to collect would restrict the passage of cooling air through the motor.



Expert advice on specialised electrical subjects is always available from your local Electricity Authority.
Issued by the British Electrical Development Association, 2 Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2.

Digging Up The Past In Dover



THIS summer great efforts are to be made by the Dover Excavation Committee to decipher one of the obscure pages of England's history.

Although Dover has one of the world's outstanding Roman remains—the Pharos, or lighthouse, which still rises 22 ft. above Castle Hill—the precise position which the town held during the Roman occupation is uncertain.

For long it had been accepted that Roman settlement in the district was centred in the area of the castle, within whose walls the Pharos stands.

In more recent years, however, expert opinion has come to regard the valley at the foot of Castle Hill—where the tidal waters of the river Dour made a natural harbour—as the more likely site.

This view is supported by the discovery in the valley of many more Roman remains than have ever come to light around the castle. From time to time, traces have been found of a very thick wall—in one place it was 17 feet across—at a considerable depth below present-day ground level.

The suggestion is that this indicates the existence at Dover of one of the shore's fortresses, similar to those at Richborough, Reculver, Lympne and other places, built in the third century to oppose the Saxon raiders.

It is in an endeavour to prove or disprove the existence of this fort that the Committee are planning to “dig up the past” in a big way this summer, funds permitting. They have issued an appeal for money to carry out this work, stating that before the blitzed town is rebuilt may be the last chance of finding out more about the history of the ancient town.

Tapping a New Source

If your tap is dripping anywhere between Staines and Southfleet (**Kent**), Amwell End and Sevenoaks, a man from the Metropolitan Water Board will mend it for you free of charge. The service was established two years ago when the Board's own publicity department organized a drive to save water to prevent waste. Now no water is wasted through leakage.

In the 575 square miles for which the Board is responsible, an average of 75 tons of fuel were saved daily through water economy last year, as long as the publicity men of the Board ran a poster campaign.

Now, when a new effort must be made to safeguard future supplies, the Board is paying £10,000 to outside experts to teach the public water economy.

Not So Dusty

Horrified by what he describes as the “crude methods” of refuse collection used in this country, Councillor J. M. Walwin, of **Warwick**, has devised a system that he claims is vastly superior.

With the aid of scale models, Councillor Wallwin has demonstrated his system to Warwick Town Council, who now have the matter under consideration with a view to experiments being carried out.

Councillor Wallwin has designed a skeleton framework to hold 60 dustbins. A vehicle thus fitted would set out on its round of houses, and would take away the full bins, leaving clean ones in their places. The loaded lorry would then return to the dump and draw up at a special platform, where the full bins would be off-loaded and emptied through a circular hole in the platform, direct into a jubilee truck. The bins would then be slid off the platform onto a rack constructed of tubular scaffolding to hold them whilst they are washed by a pressure spray. After draining they would be disinfected and be ready for loading again.

Councillor Wallwin says: “I defy anyone to say that this system would cost any more if handled properly than the present system does. It would be a cleaner and more attractive job for the men engaged on refuse collection.”

Record Service?

Is there any other local authority who has an officer with 67 years' service?

Biggleswade (Bedfordshire) Urban District Council believes that their rating officer, Mr. C. J. S. Bartlett, held the record.

He retired at the age of 88 years, but lived only six weeks to enjoy his retirement, his funeral taking place last month.

Stafford Exhibition

To give ratepayers an idea of the services which local government provides, officials of **Stafford** Town Council staged an exhibition in the Public Library illustrating the activities of the chief municipal departments.

Over 2,000 people visited the exhibition, which included working models of machinery at the town's water and sewerage stations, scale models of blocks of houses and flats to be built on various Corporation estates.

It is being followed by a “Know Your Town” exhibition staged by a local newspaper. This will include large scale photographs and drawings of all the town's principal buildings, with notes on their history.

AN ANSWER TO BUTLIN

Holiday Camps Owned by the Towns

THE growing popularity and increasing numbers of holiday camps draw attention to the opportunity, which local authorities might well examine carefully, of "staking a claim" in an enterprise which still possesses vast potentialities, by establishing municipally-owned holiday camps.

The chief advantages are obvious. In the first place, though it is true that existing camps contribute substantial revenue in rates to the local authorities, municipally-owned camps could devote the whole of the nett profits to town improvements or the relief of rates.

Holiday camps draw countless additional visitors to resorts, and visitors spend their money both in the camp and in the town, but the broad policy of privately-owned camps is naturally to induce them to spend in the camps themselves.

Municipalities, with complete planning and other facilities at their disposal, are favourably situated to develop camp sites, and there is a dawning realization, in considering the formation of new camps, that they should belong to the township itself.

A SPECIAL ATTRACTION

Chief opposition is likely to come from hotel and boarding-house keepers and shopkeepers, who argue that the camps draw custom away from them. Against this is set the contention that holiday camps attract thousands of visitors to whom they have a special appeal, and who would not otherwise visit the town at all, and also the fact that if the municipality does not establish a camp, somebody else probably will.

One resort where the matter has been raised is Whitley Bay, Northumberland. Last year the editor of the "Seaside Chronicle" paid a special visit to Butlin's camp at Filey, and afterwards advocated a local municipally-owned camp.

Mr. A. Robens, M.P. for the Wansbeck Division, also urged the undertaking, but the Council has so far taken no action.

On a recent visit to Whitley Bay (June 7) Mr. Robens again stressed his views on municipal enterprise in conversation with council officials, and granted a special interview to a CITIZEN correspondent.

MARGATE POINTS THE WAY

Recalling his tour of Margate a few days before with the chairman of the catering committee, he mentioned that three years ago the whole of the catering in places owned by the Corporation was let out under contract. This had now been changed, and in the first year the municipality had brought in £50,000 revenue, in the second £120,000, and hoped to make £200,000 this year.

"I myself take the view," said Mr. Robens, "that where public money has to be spent on essential features like promenades for the public benefit, for which there is no revenue in return, the municipality is absolutely entitled to devote itself to enterprise of a revenue-raising character to recoup itself for the non-remunerative expenditure which they must provide."

Applying this principle to the possibility of holiday camps at Whitley Bay and other resorts where they do not yet exist, he said, "They could provide first-class accommodation at reasonable prices, and would not compete with the boarding houses which, by the nature of things, I believe appeal to those whose income is a little higher than the general run of young people to whom holiday camps are certainly a great attraction.

"The years ahead are going to bring more workers with holidays-with-pay, and there is opportunity now for great expansion of holiday camps.

"The point, therefore, is whether holiday camps should be run by private enterprise or by the municipality, and I say very definitely that they should be run by the municipality." He thought that where the control was in the hands of the elected representatives of the citizens, noisy conditions and other defects would be obviated.

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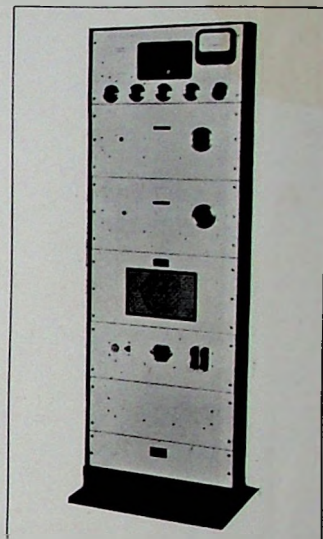
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